

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

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EA:ROAKLEY

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R 100109Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 216995

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, ENRG, ETRO

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND PRIME
MINISTER

1. FOLLOWING EXCHANGE OF LETTERS PROVIDED FYI. SIGNED
ORIGINAL OF PRESIDENT'S REPLY OF SEPTEMBER 6 HAS BEEN
DELIVERED TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY.
2. PRESIDENT REPLY: "DEAR MALCOLM: THANK YOU FOR YOUR
LETTER OF AUGUST 25. I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT YOUR
GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH THE MINING AND EXPORT
OF URANIUM. I BELIEVE THE AVAILABILITY OF AUSTRALIAN
URANIUM WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN PURSUING OUR
COMMON NONPROLIFERATION INTERESTS, PARTICULARLY IN REDUCING
PRESSURES FOR REPROCESSING AND THE SPREAD OF THE PLUTONIUM
ECONOMY.

3. WE ARE NOW INVITING OTHER COUNTRIES TO ATTEND AN
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- INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION ORGANIZATIONAL
MEETING, TO BE HELD IN WASHINGTON OCTOBER 19-21. WE
LOOK FORWARD TO ACTIVE AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION. I HOPE
YOUR REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ABLE TO LEAD OR COORDINATE
ONE AREA OF FOLLOW-UP WORK -- PERHAPS FUEL ASSURANCES.
4. WE WILL, OF COURSE, BE KEEPING YOU FULLY INFORMED
THROUGH THE DIPLOMATIC CHANNEL AS PREPARATIONS FOR THE

MEETING PROCEED. SIMILARLY, WE WILL BE CONSULTING CLOSELY WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT CONCERNING GENERAL NUCLEAR SUPPLIER POLICIES AND FURTHER PLANS FOR DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE LONDON SUPPLIERS GROUP.

5. I WANT TO EXPRESS MY THANKS FOR YOUR ALLOWING JUSTICE FOX TO VISIT WASHINGTON. WHILE I DID NOT MEET HIM PERSONALLY, I UNDERSTAND FROM THOSE WHO DID THAT THEIR DISCUSSIONS WERE VERY USEFUL.

6. I REGRET THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR BOB STRAUSS TO VISIT AUSTRALIA EARLY THIS MONTH AS WE HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED. AS YOU ARE AWARE, HOWEVER, HE IS TRYING TO RESCHEDULE THE VISIT AND STILL HOPES TO BE IN CANBERRA SOME WEEKS FROM NOW. I UNDERSTAND HE WILL BE COMMUNICATING DIRECTLY WITH YOU CONCERNING NEW DATES. SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER."

7. PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER: "THANK YOU FOR YOUR REPLY TO MY LETTER OF 11 JULY. I AM PLEASED THAT AMBASSADOR ROBERT STRAUSS IS ABLE TO ACCEPT MY INVITATION TO VISIT AUSTRALIA. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM HIM WHEN HE HAS SETTLED ON POSSIBLE DATES. WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM ON WORLD TRADE AND BILATERAL MATTERS. OUR MINISTERS FOR OVERSEAS TRADE AND FOR SPECIAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WILL HAVE A PARTICULAR

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INTEREST.

8. THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMPLETED ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RANGER URANIUM ENVIRONMENTAL INQUIRY. I INTEND TO ANNOUNCE ON 25 AUGUST 1977 THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF URANIUM MINING IN AUSTRALIA SHOULD PROCEED, SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER REGULATIONS AND CONTROLS AND ON THE BASIS OF A STRINGENT REGIME OF NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS.

9. I AM PLEASED TO HEAR THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE ON THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION. AS TO OUR OWN INVOLVEMENT, I HAVE ASKED THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO COORDINATE AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE EVALUATION. THE AUSTRALIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (AAEC) WILL REMAIN THE DESIGNATED AGENCY, BUT THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL BE THE APPROPRIATE

CHANNEL FOR COMMUNICATION ON INFCE FOR MATTERS OTHER THAN THE PURELY TECHNICAL. THAT DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN INFCE MEETINGS FROM TIME TO TIME,

AS WILL OTHER AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

10. I AM VERY GRATIFIED TO ACCEPT YOUR SUPPORT FOR AUSTRALIA'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE LONDON SUPPLIERS' GROUP. I CONSIDER THAT AUSTRALIAN MEMBERSHIP IS DESIRABLE, PARTICULARLY NOW THAT WE HAVE DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH NEW URANIUM DEVELOPMENT AND EXPORTS. OUR OFFICIALS WILL BE IN CONTACT ON THIS MATTER. YOURS SINCERELY, MALCOLM FRASER." VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 10-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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